

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05869 261426Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /114 W
----- 002462

P 261334Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5869

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI OFFSHORE DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

1. FOLLOWING PRESS ARTICLES DESCRIBE NEW ISRAELI OFFSHORE
OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ:

2. MAARIV, AUGUST 23

THE OIL PROSPECTING COMPANY IS SHIFTING ITS OFFSHORE DRILLINGS
TO A NEW SITE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AFTER THE OFFSHORE DRILLING
AT THE RAS GARA REGION WAS DECLARED DRY. A GIANT TWOER ARRIVED
LAST WEEK AT THE DRILLING REGION AND TOWED THE DRILLING PLATFORM
AND THE SERVICES PLATFORM FROM RAS GARA TO A FEW KILOMETERS
NORTH OF A-TUR.

3. BECAUSE OF THE STOPPAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLINGS AT RAS GARA
SOME TWO MONTHS AGO, ONE QUARTER OF THE WORKERS HAVE BEEN LAID
OFF.

4. IT IS LEARNED THAT THE AMERICAN COMPANY COOPERATING IN OIL
PROSPECTING AT GULF OF SUEZ HAS RECENTLY WEIGHTED THE DESIRABILITY
OF ITS CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THE PROJECT. THE COMPANY'S
RECONSIDERATION IS SAID TO RESULT FROM PROFESSIONAL REASONS
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05869 261426Z

ALTHOUGH ITS EXPERTS ARE CONVINCED THAT OIL CAN BE FOUND IN THE

A-TUR REGION.

5. A CANADIAN TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED THERE COMPLAINED TO OUR CORRESPONDENT THAT THE ISRAELI "BOSSES", SELECTED BY POLITICIANS, LACKED EXPERIENCE BUT NONETHELESS AMERICAN AND CANADIAN ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONALS HAD TO COMPLY WITH THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

6. "SOME OF THE DECISIONS ARE STRANGE, THREE MONTHS ELAPSE UNTIL SPARE PARTS REACH THE AREA. IT HAPPENS THAT ORDERED PARTS DO NOT ARRIVE AT ALL. THE BUDGET DOES NOT SUFFICE FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF EXPERIMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS ESSENTIAL WORKS", THE MAN SAID.

7. DAVAR, AUGUST 24

SINCE THE FIRST OFFSHORE DRILLING PROVED DRY TWO MONTHS AGO, NUMEROUS RENOVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE DRILLING MACHINE ENTRUSTED TO CARRY OUT THE SECOND OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE REGION TO MAKE IT SERVICEABLE AGAIN. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE SECOND OFFSHORE DRILLING WILL COMMENCE WITHIN A NUMBER OF WEEKS. IT IS INTENDED TO DRILL DEEPER THAN IN THE FIRST OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING SITE.

8. FOREIGN INVESTORS WILL MOST PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT. THE DRILLING EXPENDITURES ARE ESTIMATED AT \$40,000 A DAY.

9. IN THE MEANTIME, DIAGONAL LAND-TO-SEA OIL DRILLING WORK CONTINUES NEAR THE GULF OF SUEZ, WITH A VIEW TO DISCOVERING OIL AT UNDER-SEA LAYERS IN THE REGION. THIS DIAGONAL DRILLING IS EXECUTED BY THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN INVESTORS. IN THIS DRILLING LAPIDOT COMPANY SERVES AS CONTRACTOR FOR THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PETROLEUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760326-0193
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760815/aaaaamnw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI OFFSHORE DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: ENRG, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006